

Co-op City is a special place, not just to me, but to the thousands of people who have had the privilege of calling it home over the years. I myself am a former Co-op City resident, and my family and I lived there for many years. I have so many fond memories from my time there; from starting a family to beginning my career in public service, I can trace so many wonderful moments and life-events back to my Co-op City days. I can also trace so many wonderful friendships back to Co-op City, many I still cherish to this day.

As fortunate as I was to have lived in Co-op City, I am just as fortunate to now represent Co-op City in the halls of Congress. I hope that my service can in some way give back to the community that has given me so much.

As a part of the Mitchell-Lama housing program, Co-op City has provided quality housing at an affordable rate to generations of New Yorkers. As we celebrate its 50th Anniversary, it's important to reflect on just how fortunate we are to have such a strong and thriving housing development in the Bronx. I'm proud to say I lived in Co-op City, and I'm just as proud to still serve Co-op City today as Congressman.

Congratulations to the Riverbay Board, the entire Co-op City community, and all the residents who have made the past 50 years in Co-op City a tremendous success

and Eusebio were torn from their children and deported to Mexico.

But over the last sixteen months, we didn't give up. We kept working to reunite Maria with her family—to bring her home.

Finally, after more than a year of work, we were able to secure an H1-B visa for Maria. And this past Sunday, I was honored and overjoyed to join Maria as she was reunited with her children.

But Maria isn't the only mother torn from her children by President Trump's immigration policies.

Also in the news this week was the story of Shaima, whose son Abdullah Hassan has been on life support at Children's Hospital Oakland, in my district.

Abdullah is two years old and suffers from a genetic brain condition. His mother Shaima, who was born in Yemen, has been barred from travelling to the United States to be with her son because of the Trump Administration's un-American Muslim ban.

Abdullah doesn't have much time left—and Shaima feared that she would not be able to say goodbye to her young son.

Mr. Speaker—is this really who we are? A country that denies mothers safe passage to be with their dying children?

No family should ever have to endure this. And in the face of such unimaginable cruelty, I am proud to say that our community stepped up. I want to thank everyone who showed up, who protested and organized and petitioned for this outcome.

Because of your advocacy, the State Department granted a visa waiver to Shaima so she can be with her son. She will be able to be with her son, to hug him and to say goodbye.

But we know that there are many other people like Maria and Shaima who remain separated from their families.

When I went down to the border earlier this year, I saw the prison-like conditions that they were keeping children in.

There were kids sleeping on concrete floor—with only thin emergency blankets to keep them warm.

And to this very day, there are hundreds of children in HHS custody. And Secretary Nielsen can't tell us when they will be reunited.

Let's be clear: this isn't an immigration policy. This is a family separation policy.

Children torn from their mothers, parents deported away from their kids. And it's up to Congress to stop it.

It's past time for us to restore—justice, dignity and common sense to this immigration system.

We need to ensure kids who have lived here their entire lives—like Maria's oldest daughter—can make a life in the only country they have ever known.

We need to get this disgraceful, discriminatory travel ban off the books, so no loved one has to experience what Shaima went through.

We need to pass comprehensive immigration reform so that people like Maria and Eusebio can come out of the shadows.

Mr. Speaker—for every case like Maria's or Shaima's there are dozens more left unresolved.

Countless families have been left in limbo, unsure if or when they will ever see their loved ones again.

Not only do we owe it to these families to fix our broken immigration system—we owe it

to the country and the constitution to live up to American values.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our houses of worship are often the ties that bind our communities together. In Rye, few institutions have been as successful in strengthening the neighborhood and bringing people together as the Community Synagogue of Rye, which this year is celebrating its remarkable 70th Anniversary.

One Sunday in early autumn 1948, 7-year-old Betty Wolder asked her parents if she could go to church with her friend Susan who was Christian. Her parents explained that since they were Jewish and did not belong to Susan's church, she could not attend. Betty continued to ask questions and her parents wanted to give her better answers. The Wolders contacted the few Jewish people they knew in Rye about forming a Jewish religious school, and a sponsoring group of families. The response was extraordinarily positive, and the rest is history.

A beautiful mansion—built in 1903 at 200 Forest Avenue—was purchased in June of 1950, and Rabbi Samuel H. Gordon, an experienced, widely traveled liberal Rabbi, was hired as the first spiritual leader in 1950. From there, Community Synagogue grew and flourished. The congregation is now around 500 families and over 300 students from Rye, and several communities between Greenwich and White Plains. The synagogue has an ambitious education program for both children and adults, numerous opportunities to become involved in social action, beautiful worship services, and life cycle celebrations. Their enthusiastic and active committees help make the synagogue a dynamic and caring community, and their work has grown beyond the congregation to serve the greater community.

Community Synagogue of Rye has had an amazing 70 years. Congratulations to the leadership and congregation on this occasion.

HONORING RAY O'HANLON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the importance of a free and open press cannot be overstated, especially in our local communities. I am very fortunate to represent a district that is covered by the Irish Echo, an outstanding local newspaper, which is led by my friend and one of this year's Ancient Order of Hibernians' honorees, Ray O'Hanlon.

As Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have had the pleasure of working with Ray for many years on a wide variety of topics, including Irish-American issues which have always been particularly close to my heart.

Ray is the editor of the New York-published Irish Echo. A native of Dublin who worked for

FIXING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S UN-AMERICAN IMMIGRATION POLICIES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2018

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an elected representative, but also as a mother—a mother who is horrified and outraged by the actions taken by the Trump Administration to deliberately separate families.

Like any mother, I love my children and cannot imagine being separated from them. But because of the Trump Administration's policies, some mothers have no choice.

Just this week, I have been working to reunite two mothers in my community who were prevented from reuniting with their families.

The first story I want to share is of Maria Mendoza-Sanchez. Maria has lived with her family in the East Bay for more than two decades. She and her husband Eusebio raised four beautiful children, worked hard, and purchased a home in Oakland.

Maria went to school while raising small children and went on to become a nurse at Highland Hospital. She was beloved by her patients and her colleagues.

Maria and Eusebio tried to do the right thing. They paid their taxes and came forward to legalize their immigration status. And for years, they were on a path to citizenship.

But like many families, Maria and Eusebio's efforts did not matter to the Trump Administration.

Under President Trump's misguided enforcement priorities, Maria and Eusebio were targeted for deportation.

And last summer—after more than twenty years building a life in our community—Maria